COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Clifford Terms NATO Meeting 'Most Effective'

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford returned from a meeting of NATO allies in Bonn, Germany, Oct. 10-11, and said that the United States "is determined to maintain its full measure of assistance to Berlin."

He said the freedom of Berlin is a matter "of deepest concern to us" and that "this nation would take whatever steps were appropriate, not only to maintain the freedom of Berlin, but to assure ingress and egress to that city."

Secretary Clifford said he believed the trip had been unusually productive. "The two-day meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group, I think was perhaps the most effective and resulted in the most accomplishments," he noted. "Papers read at that time had to do with the development of the nuclear defense of the European members of NATO.

"There was the usual discussion that went on during the meeting of the group. There were expressions of opinions. The NATO allies did not expect us to take any action with reference to the Soviet incursion into Czechoslovakia. It was discussed at considerable length; the possibility of other moves was discussed. I was conscious of no real basic difference of opinion and certainly there was no controversy."

Regarding the possibility of any change in U.S. troop strength in the NATO countries, Secretary Clifford said:

"I informed our NATO allies that we did not intend sending any more American troops to Europe at this time. We have over 300,000 military personnel in the NATO countries at

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NURSE WINS BRONZE STAR—Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command, poses with 1st Lt. Jane A. Lombardi, a flight nurse, after decorating her with the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal at SAC headquarters. Lt. Lombardi, now assigned to the Ehrling Bergquist USAF Hospital, Offutt AFB, Neb., received the bronze star for her actions at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam while the base was under heavy enemy attack. She is one of the first women to earn the Bronze Star in the Vietnam conflict.

Air Force Initiates Action to Return 'Pueblo Call-ups' to Inactive Status

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford said Oct. 2 that Air Force is initiating action which will return all the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units and personnel, mobilized earlier this year to inactive status by June 30, 1969.

The action will affect about 16,000 men and their equipment.

Most of these reserve units were mobilized last January following the North Korean seizure of the USS Pueblo. The remainder were called up in May to meet additional Air Force requirements in Southeast Asia and other areas. Certain units were deployed to Korea and southeast Asia, while others were sent to bases within the United States.

A Department of Defense fact sheet explains that the law under which the reserves were mobilized permits their retention on active duty for up to 24 months. The situation concerning the reserves has been under continuous

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Senate Subcommittee Reports on Tactical Air Power

This nation and its free world allies have approximate numerical parity in tactical aircraft with the Soviet Union and other communist-aligned nations; but the Soviets have substantial superiority in the numbers of interceptor and air superiority aircraft. Both of these types would play a vital role if hostilities were forced upon this nation.

That statement was included in the list of major findings reported by the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Armed Services. The report, released Oct. 6, covered the U.S. tactical air power program.

In the introduction it was pointed out that tactical aircraft are essential to meet any military threat short of nuclear war. Traditionally, the introduction said, the tasks assigned tactical aircraft are threefold: (1) air superiority; (2) interdiction of enemy lines of communication so as to isolate the battle area; and (3) close air support of ground forces. The first task requires an aircraft optimized for air-to-air combat; the latter two planes optimized for air-to-ground delivery of munitions.

Among other major findings and recommendations reported by the committee were the following:

—Today the United States has roughly the same number of tactical aircraft it possessed in 1961.

—For several years intelligent sources have predicted consistently that in the future the Soviets would reduce their tactical air force inventory; but these estimates of reduction have been incorrect, because the Soviet Union has retained its tactical aircraft in operational units longer than anticipated.

—Because of better payload, improved avionics, and so forth, the United States appears to have a qualitative advantage over the Soviet Union in aircraft which have as their primary mission air-to-ground delivery of ordnance. Our inventory includes the A-4, A-6, A-7, A-37, F-105, and the F-111A.

—Today the F-4 is the most capable air-to-air combat aircraft possessed by the United States; but this plane was first approved 13 years ago (1955), and today Soviet planes in Vietnam—primarily the MIG21—are at least equal to its performance at normal fighting altitude. In addition, the Soviets have designed, built, and flown many models of more modern planes than the MIG-21. None of these later Soviet models have been assigned to Vietnam. Therefore, we have grave concern over the ability of the United States to establish and maintain control of the air during the 1970's.

—Whereas this Nation has not produced a single new air superiority fighter since 1955—not one is even in contract definition as of today—during these same years the Soviets have flown an impressive array of new models, 18 in all. Seven of the latter were first seen at the July 1967 Moscow airshow, the first held by the Soviets since 1961.

It was at this show we first saw their FOXBAT, present holder of the world speed record. Precise data is classified, but it is estimated at least two of the new fighters seen for the first time at the airshow are currently in or will shortly go into production.

—It is only logical to conclude that the new Soviet aircraft recently flown by the Soviets are superior to the MIG-21; and when they become operational will be superior to the F-4, the latter the best air superiority fighter we have today, or will have for many years to come.

—All tactical aircraft flown by the Soviet Union at its July 1967 airshow were designed before 1964. Little information on their further designs is available, but it is reasonable to assume they are already striving to improve upon the impressive new aircraft flown at the 1967 Moscow airshow.

—We must take serious account of the new Soviet models, not only because of the possibility of direct future combat, but also because it has become Soviet policy to provide aircraft to third-country nations all over the world, including North Vietnam, the Middle East, and Europe.

—Whenever possible, the subcommittee supports commonality between elements of the Air Force FX and the proposed Navy VFX—such components as engines, avionics, etc. But it was the effort to perform so many missions with one basic airframe

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WELCOME ABOARD—William C. Doyle (right), National Commander of the American Legion, talks with Lt. Gen. Walter T. Kerwin Jr., Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, during a conference at II Field Force Headquarters. The Legion commander and his party received a briefing on the tactical situation in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

NATO Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

this time, and in addition to that, we have a number of divisions located in this country but committed fully to the defense of NATO. Those divisions could be transported to NATO in the event of an emergency upon a very short notice."

A newsman asked the Secretary of Defense if he believed that NATO is prepared at this point to meet any emergency that may arise due to the Soviet threat or other action.

Secretary Clifford answered that he was "comforted by the degree of readiness" that exists among NATO forces. Then he added: "It is not all that we would like. There were discussions with reference to increasing the readiness of the troops; having to do with the question of locating troops, and equipping of troops."

"I believe that discussions that started at this meeting," he continued, " will be carried on and will very likely reach fruition at another meeting of NATO defense ministers which will be held in Brussels not much more than a month from now, some time around the middle of November, and I would anticipate then that a number of discussions started at this meeting will be concluded at that meeting so that there will be results from it."

Secretary Clifford was accompanied to the Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Bonn by Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman, JCS; Paul C. Warnke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; Phil G. Goulding, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, and Frederick S. Wyle, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA) for European and NATO Affairs.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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P-3C ORION TEST FLIGHT—Navy's newest antisubmarine patrol aircraft, the P-3C Orion, makes its initial test flight from Lockheed-California Company's Burbank, Calif., plant.

Navy Unveils New ASW Plane

A new era in antisubmarine warfare techniques was ushered in at Burbank, Calif., Oct. 8 when the Navy rolled out a prototype model of the Navy's YP-3C "Orion."

RAdm. R. L. Townsend, commander of the Naval Air Systems Command, said the new aircraft will provide the navy with an advanced weapons system to more effectively detect, classify, localize and attack underseas targets through the use of automatic data processing equipment.

Built by Lockheed-California, the YP-3C is expected to be an operational antisubmarine warfare mainstay for the Navy during the next decade.

The YP-3C differs little in outward appearance from its predecessors, the P-3A and the P-3B. The interior, however, houses more than 300 pieces of avionics equipment, some 200 of which were not incorporated in the earlier models. The interior has been designed to provide access to most equipment from three sides of the console mount.

Avionics equipment has been designed in modular form to facilitate rapid replacement aloft or on the ground. The maintainability goal is to be able to fix 95 percent of all YP-3C mission equipment failures within 30 minutes.

Computer-initiated systems and diagnostic tests, plus the installation of built-in testing devices, will afford complete fault isolation at the replacement module level.

The heart of the system is a general purpose digital computer and an integrated tactical display installed on board the aircraft. It normally carries a crew of 10.

In talking of the new aircraft, VAdm. Turner F. Caldwell, Jr., director of the Navy's Antisubmarine Warfare Programs, said "As the potential threat posed by the Soviet submarine force increases, ASW capabilities must keep pace if we as a nation are to maintain the freedom to use the seas in our national interest. We must maintain an ASW force which is capable and ready for any eventuality. Aircraft, both land and sea based, are now and will continue to be vital to our ASW posture."

Ferment in the U. S. S. R.

A SOVIET SCIENTIST SPEAKS OUT

As reported in the August 24 issue of COMMANDERS DIGEST, Under Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach recently mentioned "a remarkable treatise" by Soviet nuclear physicist Andrei Sakharov, published July 22 in The New York Times, which gives evidence that "ferment and pressures for liberalization are running strongly and just beneath the surface in the Soviet Union."

In his essay, clandestinely circulated in the U.S.S.R., Dr. Sakharov advocated a rapprochement between the East and West. Among obstacles to this goal in the Soviet Union, he cited the lack of free expression and the debilitating activities of neo-Stalinists.

Of particular interest are his remarks on Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Andrei D. Sakharov, the 47-year-old Soviet nuclear physicist whose recent 10,000-word clandestinely distributed essay has been termed one of the most comprehensive criticisms of the Communist system ever circulated in the U.S.S.R., is believed to be an unofficial spokesman for an important cross section of that nation's concerned intellectuals.

Dr. Sakharov underscored this point himself by acknowledging the help of many persons who read preliminary drafts of his article and offered valuable suggestions for its improvement.

National and International Issues

Dated "June 1968" and given wide hand-to-hand circulation in the Soviet Union before copies reached outside points in July, the Sakharov essay is a sweeping discussion of national and international issues. It stresses the need for peaceful cooperation between East and West and, in particular, cites the dangers that are implicit in Communist censorship policies.

Among the topics Dr. Sakharov discusses are the threat of nuclear war, Soviet-U.S. relations, peaceful coexistence, poverty, the defects of "mass culture," the harmful effects of censorship and the general denial of intellectual freedom in the U.S.S.R. He also sounds a warning against neo-Stalinist influences within the Soviet Communist party and the pro-regime intellectual hierarchy.

According to the author, the present division of mankind into irreconcilable camps threatens it with destruction by a "universal thermonuclear war, and catastrophic hunger."

He also warns against "the narcotic of mass culture and bureaucratized dogmatism" as well as against what he calls "the power of cruel and treacherous demagogues" who have subjugated entire peoples and continents by exploiting "mass myths."

Critical of Another Doctrine

He unequivocally condemns the thesis of the irreconcilability of the Marxist-Leninist ideology with any other ideology, a major Communist dogma, and declares that "any action increasing the division of mankind, any preaching of the incompatibility of world ideologies and nations is madness and a crime."

Academician Sakharov is equally critical of another basic Communist doctrine calling for the violent overthrow of capitalism.

"The capitalist world could not help giving birth to the socialist," he wrote, "but now the socialist world should not seek to destroy by force the ground from which it grew. Under present conditions this would be tantamount to the suicide of mankind. Socialism should ennoble that ground by its example and other indirect forms of pressures and then merge with it."

The author recommends "convergence" of the two systems through a gradual Communist rapprochement with the capitalist world. He warns that such a rapprochement should not be of the Hitler-Stalin type but should be developed on a "democratic foundation, under the control of public opinion and expressed through publicity, elections and so forth. . . ."

Although Dr. Sakharov does not consider the western multiparty system "a panacea for all ills," he points out that "in some cases a multiparty system may be an inevitable consequence of the course of events when a ruling Communist party refuses for one reason or another to rule by the scientific democratic method required by history."

Czech Initiative Valuable

He declares that intellectual freedom is "the key to a progressive restructuring of government." This, he adds,

"has been understood, in particular, by the Czechoslovaks and there can be no doubt that we should support this bold initiative, which is so valuable for the future of socialism and all mankind. That support should be political and, in the early stages, include increased economic aid."

In comparing Soviet economic strength with that of the United States, Dr. Sakharov frankly states that research and development costs borne by the United States have been a major contributing factor to Soviet industrial development.

He notes, however, that although the Soviet Union is now catching up with the United States in the production of steel and coal, the over-all comparison picture is not very promising to the U.S.S.R. In fact, Dr. Sakharov says, "in some of the new fields, for example, automation, computers, petrochemicals and especially in industrial research and development, we are not only lagging behind but also growing more slowly, so that a complete victory of our economy in the next few decades is unlikely."

The Soviet intellectual also debunks the old Marxist dogma that under capitalism the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. In the United States, he says, "there has been real improvement of the position of the working people." At the same time, he notes that "40 percent of the Soviet population is in difficult economic circumstances."

Advocates Cooperation with the U.S.

Dr. Sakharov says he is optimistic that the Soviet Union eventually will adopt a policy of cooperating with the United States in solving world problems, including that of disarmament.

He emphasizes, however, that such an achievement will require substantial changes in the Soviet Union. Among present obstacles he cites the lack of freedom of expression in the U.S.S.R. and the debilitating influence of neo-Stalinism.

"The exposure of Stalinism in our country still has a long way to go," he points out. "It is imperative, of course, that we publish all authentic documents, including the archives of the NKVD (secret police) and conduct nationwide investigations."

Stalinist Terror

As a result of Stalinist terror, he stresses, "it was the Soviet people, its most active, talented and honest representatives, who suffered the most terrible blow. At least 10 to 15 million people perished in the torture chambers of the NKVD . . . and in camps . . . which were in fact the prototypes of the Nazi death camps . . .

"In 1936-39 alone, more than 1.2 million party members, half of the total membership, were arrested. Only 50,000 regained freedom, the others were tortured during interrogations or were shot (600,000) or died in camps."

Blaming neo-Stalinists for protecting the image of Stalin, the author insists that "it is imperative that we restrict in every possible way the influence of neo-Stalinists in our political life. . . . Is it not highly disgraceful and dangerous to make increasingly frequent attempts, either directly or indirectly (through silence), to publicly rehabilitate Stalin, his associates and his policy? . . ."

Recent Persecution

Turning to recent instances of the persecution of dissident writers and other intellectuals in the U.S.S.R., Dr. Sakharov notes that "the crippling censorship of Soviet artistic and political literature has again been intensified. Dozens of brilliant writings cannot see the light of day . . ."

Citing the fact that even those who merely protested against the unjust treatment of writers were themselves subjected to persecution and deprived of their livelihood, Academician Sakharov gives this typical example:

"Comrade B., a woman editor of books on motion pictures, was summoned to the party's district committee. The first question was, 'Who gave you the letter in defense of Ginsburg to sign?' Allow me not to reply to this question, she answered. All right, you can go, we want to talk this over, she was told. The decision was to expel the woman from the party and recommend that she be dismissed from her job and barred from working anywhere else in the field of culture.

"With such methods of persuasion and indoctrination . . . the party can hardly expect to claim the role of spiritual leader of mankind."

Dr. Sakharov's recent essay is by no means the first instance of his outspokenness.

In 1958, the prominent physicist and member of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences took part in a debate on educational reform and in 1964 he sided with western geneticists in criticizing a prevalent Stalinist theory that hereditary changes in plants can be influenced by environmental factors.

And in 1966, on the eve of the Soviet Communist party's 23d Congress, he joined with fellow intellectuals in warning Party Chief Brezhnev against reported plans to "rehabilitate" Stalin. He also joined in a protest against a new Soviet decree making unauthorized public demonstrations a crime punishable by imprisonment.

Dr. Sakharov's 1968 essay—which he entitled "Thoughts About Progress, Peaceful Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom"—was circulated just 3 months after Brezhnev and President of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences M. Keldysh had threatened reprisals against persons protesting against censorship and the state's prosecution of liberal writers.

Subcommittee Report on Tactical Air Power (Continued from Page 2)

which resulted in serious downgrading of the performance of the F-111A and elimination of the F-111B. This experience should not be repeated.

The subcommittee recommended that:

1—The United states initiate and pursue with vigor the development of a new air superiority weapons system, recognizing that it will be the mid-1970's before it is operational.

2—The Air Force FX tactical fighter aircraft proceed with maximum effort, and that it be optimized for an air superiority mission.

3—The Navy's VFX program proceed with maximum effort to the end that an optimized weapons system will be available at the earliest point in time in order to meet the fighter requirements of the Navy.

4—In the light of the current and foreseeable Soviet threat the Navy reassess the proposed missions for the VFX-1.

5—The Navy determine, with as much precision as possible, where the priorities should be assigned with respect to the four VFX-1 missions so that minimum degradation will be realized in the performance of the primary mission.

6—The consistent record of underestimating the Soviet's inventory of tactical aircraft for future years be reevaluated in an effort to achieve a more accurate prediction of inventories in coming years.

7—Whenever possible, maximum commonality be achieved between the Air Force FX and the Navy VFX in engines, avionics, etc. However, we believe that the experience on the F-111 program clearly demonstrates it is essential for each service to develop its own airframe.

8—The Department of Defense first study the mix of tactical aircraft performing air-to-ground missions as compared to aircraft with a primary air-to-air role; and thereupon advise the subcommittee on whether the balance is correct and proper. Emphasis on the possible Soviet conventional war threat should be primary to this study.

9—In the light of the stated Air Force requirement for a new AX aircraft for close support of ground forces, together with the numerous types of air-to-ground aircraft already in the inventory, the Air Force and the Defense Department study this requirement and thereupon advise the subcommittee of the validity of this requirement. If it is valid the subcommittee should be advised whether we are procuring too many types of air-to-ground weapons systems at the present time.

10—Both civilian and military officials reexamine the estimated requirements for tactical aircraft for a possible NATO war to determine whether an agreed-upon position can be reached, giving full consideration to military judgments, and the results forwarded to the subcommittee.

11—The Record of Decision on tactical forces which constitutes the single most important binding document be thoroughly reviewed by both the military and civilian authorities to determine the substantive areas of agreement and disagreement to see whether agreed-upon positions for force levels can be reached based on full consideration of military judgments. In particular we would hope that all assumptions contained therein be thoroughly explored for their soundness and validity. Our national security is materially dependent on the logic of these assumptions.

ONE-STAR SNIPER—Brig. Gen. Frank E. Garretson, Assistant 3d Marine Div. Commander, tests his shooting eye with the Model 700 sniper rifle at the Fourth Marines sniper range, Dong Ha, Vietnam. Prior to assuming his present duties, Gen. Garretson was Director, Division of Information, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Navy Awards Contracts On ASMS Development

The Navy's new Advanced Surface Missile System (ASMS), now in the contract definition phase of development, will significantly improve the range of protection afforded task forces at sea from surprise attacks by supersonic missiles.

The Department of Defense announced recently that three industrial firms have been selected to conduct this second stage of the system's development.

Contracts totalling $18 million were awarded to: the Boeing Co., Seattle, Wash.; General Dynamics, Pomona,

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Pueblo Call-ups

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study by the Air Force with the objective of returning them to inactive status at a time and in a manner consistent with the national interest.

Under foreseeable circumstances, the Air Guard and Air Reserve units will be demobilized under a fixed schedule. Four squadrons will be demobilized by the end of this year and the remainder by the end of June 1969.

Those squadrons on combat duty in the Pacific area will be replaced by regular Air Force squadrons. The Defense Department said "our posture in that area will remain at its present level."

In addition to the scheduled demobilization of units, individual ANG/Reserve personnel will be released in accordance with the following criteria:

1—Personnel who complete a normal permanent change of station (PCS) tour overseas will be released upon return to CONUS.

2—Personnel in the CONUS who have previously served on active duty and who are not now assigned to any element of the parent unit with which they were brought to active duty in 1968 well be eligible for release as they complete a total of 42 months of active duty, considering this and previous tours.

Personnel who do not meet the above criteria will be retained until the unit with which they were brought to active duty is demobilized. At that time they will be eligible for release with the unit, regardless of their length of active service or where they are currently assigned.

The Defense Department said any individual reservist who is eligible under previously stated criteria may, if he so desires, remain on active duty for all the full 24 months.

The new program, the Defense Department explained, supplements the plan announced in July which provided for the early release (six months prior to expiration of obligated service) of 61,500 regular enlisted personnel and the reduction of 5,100 officers.

Former Presidents Urge Exercise Of Voting Right by Armed Forces

Every one of you as a member of the Armed Forces is serving our country in a special way. You are keeping America safe and secure.

One could hardly ask you to do more than that.

But I'm going to anyway.

As a former soldier, and as a former Commander-in-Chief but most of all, as just a private American citizen, I'm going to ask you to carry out a special duty.

That is to vote in next month's national elections.

It doesn't matter where you are stationed, if you wear an American uniform you have the right and the obligation to cast your ballot.

There is a Voting Assistance Officer in every military unit who can give you all the necessary forms.

Get in touch with him. Vote for the candidates you want in office.

There are a lot of countries where a citizen can't vote. Or, if he can vote, it really doesn't mean anything.

That isn't true of America.

We must never let it become true in America.

The way to keep it from happening is for you and me and all of us to vote.

I'm asking you to do just that.

/s/ Harry S. Truman

As one of you, I want to emphasize the importance of voting in the forthcoming national election—wherever you may be. All of us regard voting as a right. Too few realize that it is also a duty.

In these difficult times, the Nation and its Government need the guidance of its citizens. The proper and most effective way for all of us to be heard is through the ballot box. That is where our convictions must be registered.

Your vote will help determine who our leaders will be. It will affect the future course of our country.

I urge you not to fail to exercise your right to vote.

/s/ Dwight D. Eisenhower

New VA Programs Receive 55,000 Enrollees

More than 55,000 eligible veterans have taken advantage of three new programs opened a year ago by the Veterans Administration in keeping with their policy of providing complete educational opportunities for veterans.

Effective Oct. 1, 1967, flight training, on-the-job training, and training to complete high school without losing entitlement to follow-on college education were made available to veterans under the Post-Korean G. I. Bill.

In the past 12 months nearly 23,000 veterans have entered on-the-job training while more than 15,000 veterans have taken advantage of the special program permitting them to receive VA education assistance to complete high school or take college deficiency courses without losing their G.I. Bill entitlement to college training.

Despite a requirement that veterans must have valid private licenses or equivalent in flight training hours and meet medical requirements for a commercial pilot's license, the current Post-Korean G.I. Bill flight training program has attracted more veteran-trainees than did the much less restrictive Korean Conflict program at its peak.

More than 17,000 veterans have entered flight training under the present program. Peak enrollment under the Korean Conflict flight training program was reached in November 1967, when 13,000 veterans were enrolled.

Army Recruits Will Train With Communist Rifle

Battle realism is expected to result from recent instructions issued by General William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, to include familiarization with the Communist AK-47 rifle in training program for Army recruits.

When implemented, the plan calls for all recruits to be given an orientation on the weapon's characteristics, to be followed by a live firing demonstration.

A majority of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese units in South Vietnam are armed with this Russian-designed automatic rifle widely used by Communist military forces.

Captured AK-47 rifles will be used at all Army training centers in the U.S.

The AK-47 also will be included in what the Army calls "Crack and Thump" training. This refers to a program designed to aid infantrymen in determining the direction of fire and the range to hidden enemy snipers.

As more of the Communist weapons become available, Army said, the program will be expanded to include arming of training center aggressor forces in tactical field training. Equipped with blank firing adaptors, the rifles will give an added touch of realism which will give the soldier experience in safe handling of enemy weapons which he may find or capture on the battlefield.

ASMS Contracts

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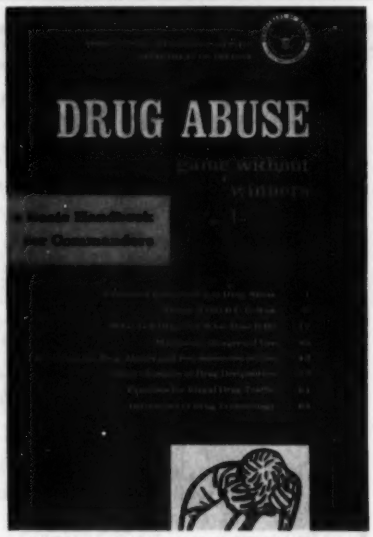
Calif.; and Radio Corporation of America, Moorestown, N.J.

The three companies selected are expected to submit their working designs of the system's specific features in about six months. The Navy will then select a contractor to begin the engineering development phase.

In addition to a new, high-speed defensive missile, one of the special features of ASMS will be an electronic radar system able to "look" in any direction almost instantaneously.



DRUG ABUSE: GAME WITHOUT WINNERS, A Basic Handbook for Commanders. [DoD GEN-33, DA Pam 360-530, NAVPERS 15234, AFP 34-2, NAVMC 2620, CG-173.]

This 80-page indexed handbook is one of the most comprehensive publications ever produced on drug abuse.

Designed to help fill the information vacuum on drug abuse, the handbook's aim is to help commanders understand, prevent and combat drug abuse problems.

This handbook sets out a brief historical view of drug abuse. In addition, it describes various drugs and nondrug products susceptible to abuse.

Drug distribution methods, penalties for illegal drug traffic, and technical definitions are described.

Prevention is stressed. The handbook points out that "The illegal use of drugs by members of the Armed Forces is a matter of concern that requires intensive, coordinated departmental effort for its control and elimination. The heavy responsibilities of members of the Armed Forces make drug abuse by any member a matter of serious concern which dictates intensive effort to eliminate it. The Department of Defense acknowledges particular responsibility for protecting the young, impressionable members of the Armed Forces overseas against the dangers of using drugs which may have a seriously damaging effect on their health and welfare."

Servicemen Cautioned On Plea of Guilty In Traffic Offenses

Consulting a Legal Assistance Officer after receiving a traffic citation resulting from an auto accident can assist a serviceman in intelligently determining the type of plea he wishes to enter.

The entrance of a guilty plea inadvertently or to avoid the time and expense of trial may jeopardize his position in a subsequent civil action for damages between himself and the other parties involved in the collision.

Briefly, that is how an article in a recent issue of the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Law Review warns servicemen against a hasty plea of guilty in motor vehicle accident cases.

The author, Maj. William H. Carnahan of the USAF Academy Department of Law, points out that, "Generally, . . . a plea of guilty in a criminal proceeding is admissible in a subsequent civil action." If the civil action arises out of the same facts which constituted the criminal offense, the guilty plea" . . . is a solemn confession of the very matter charged in the civil action."

Maj. Carnahan goes on, however, to note there may be acceptable alternatives to pleas of guilty or not guilty. "For the most part," he said, "(courts) recognize that it is expedient to pay a traffic ticket, especially if it can be done through the mail, or even in some instances, to forfeit bond. This conduct has not been recognized as an admission against interest," and therefore would not be admissable in a subsequent civil suit. Further, in jurisdictions which recognize it, a plea "nolo contendere" might be wise. Such a plea, which does not contest the criminal action, ". . . cannot be used against the defendant as an admission in any civil suit arising out of the same facts."

In conclusion, he states, ". . . it appears that Legal Assistance Officers should provide the client involved in circumstances heretofore discussed with sound intelligent advice.

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